ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data transmission and receiving system between vending equipment and service vehicles is provided so as to allow service personnel the ability to retrieve information about the vending equipment prior to entering facilities and arriving at the equipment's location. The preferred embodiment of the present invention teaches a monitoring module configured to interface with a communications port or existing DEX/UCS port in a vending machine, the monitoring module configured to periodically poll the equipment to receive operational and/or inventory data, and/or cash data , along with an identifier for identifying the particular equipment, is transmitted to a reception area wherein a mobile service vehicle may be situated to receive said data via a receiver unit, which receiver unit is configured to interface with a portable computer so as to transfer said operational and/or inventory data. The portable computer is configured to provide to the route operator/service personnel operational and/or inventory data. on the vending machine(s) in the vicinity of the mobile service vehicle, so as to allow the service personnel to pull the necessary inventory for stocking the machines without the necessity of a physical inventory, thereby significantly reducing restocking and overall route service time. Additional information which may be compiled and transmitted by the present system is coin box activity, wherein the portable computer displays activity relating to coin box or product inventory changes from the period of reception at the service vehicle to the point where the unit is opened for replenishing inventory and emptying the coin box, so that the operator may properly "balance out" the unit.

["Abstract" Word Count: **190** (max. allowed 250)]

[Overall Word Count: 8,603 - 10/4/00]